Amendments to the Abstract:

On page 10 of the specification, please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

ASTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A refractory metal core for use in a casting system has a coating for providing oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction/dissolution during casting. In a first embodiment, the coating ~~comprises~~ includes at least one oxide and a silicon containing material. In a second embodiment, the coating ~~comprises~~ includes an oxide selected from the group ~~consisting~~ of calcia, magnesia, alumina, zirconia, chromia, yttria, silica, hafnia, and mixtures thereof. In a third embodiment, the coating ~~comprises~~ includes a nitride selected from the group ~~consisting~~ of silicon nitride, sialon, titanium nitride, and mixtures thereof. Other coating embodiments are described in the disclosure.